

## ABSTRACT

### **JOURNAL OF THE MALAYSIAN BRANCH OF THE ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY (JMBRAS) 1987-1996 : A BIBLIOMETRIC STUDY**

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This study examines bibliometrically *Journal of the Malaysian Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society (JMBRAS)* 1987-1996, analysing 111 articles, and the citations appended to them, 103 biographical notes, titles, contents, as well as 78 book reviews.

Two methods were employed, namely descriptive statistics and bibliometric analysis. Descriptive statistics is used to describe the characteristics, quantities and research trends of the articles and book reviews published in *JMBRAS* 1987-1996. Bibliometric techniques were employed to show and determine the spread and character of the literature used by the authors, apart from the study of gender, occupation, affiliation (geographic and institutional) and extent of authorship collaboration. Bibliometric data such as titles and contents of the articles were also analysed to study the number of words in the titles, inclusion of acknowledgement, appendix and abstracts as part of these articles.

The required bibliometric data and other relevant information were collected and compiled using two special forms, *JMBRAS* Articles Data Input Form and *JMBRAS* Book Reviews Data Input Form. After obtaining all the required data, the data were tabulated and transferred into three tables, namely Article Table, Source Table, and Review Table to facilitate extraction of records for data analysis.

It was found that the typical author of a *JMBRAS* article is usually a male foreign academician. He is also a member of MBRAS, the Society which published *JMBRAS*. On the other hand, the typical bibliometric profiles of *JMBRAS* are: The articles are normally single-authored, and on an average having 20.48 pages, 17.88 notes, and 36.33 citations. Most of the articles are without acknowledgement, appendix or abstract. The average number of words in the title of a *JMBRAS* article is 6.76. As to the subject emphasis of the article, it is quite often General Social History.

A typical bibliometric profile of a *JMBRAS* book review, on the contrary, is as follows: It is usually written by a male foreign contributor who is coincidentally a member of the learned Society, MBRAS. In most cases, a reviewer has not reviewed more than one book.

The study also traces the historical development of *JMBRAS*, a half-yearly journal published by MBRAS in its effort to disseminate knowledge and matters of historical value pertaining to Malaysia and the surrounding region, was also touched upon. Aspects such as editorial history, content and coverage, prolific contributors, visibility of the journal and its publication of indices are also covered.